

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of original claims 2 and 5.

The new features of the amended claim 10 are disclosed on page 12, lines 1 to 4 of the specification.

The feature of the new claim 11 can be found on page 8, lines 1 to 2.

The features of the new claims 12 to 14 are disclosed on pages 10, lines 6 to 13 of the specification.

The features of new claim 15 are disclosed on page 11, lines 3 to 7 of the specification and can be seen in Figures 7 and 8.

Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Wahlberg (US 2,286,449) discloses a wiper device which comprises a wiper arm (32) and a control unit (38, 40) for controlling the position of a wiper blade (56) in relation to the wiper arm (32). Such position control is in accordance with an operating position of the wiper arm (32). Moreover, the wiper arm (32) has a freedom of movement, achieved without articulation which is capable of producing a contact force. The control unit (38, 40) features a different mechanical connecting part (38) to a body of a motor vehicle than the wiper arm (32). Wahlberg lacks the feature that the wiper arm (32) and the connecting part (38) are arranged one on top of the other in a top view in at least one operating position and in at least one partial section of the wiper arm (32). Therefore, amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Wahlberg.

Furthermore, Wahlberg lacks the feature that the wiper arm (32) has a bistable partial area which comprises at least one leaf spring element for producing a contact force and an articulation, wherein the bistable partial area serves as a fold-out device. Therefore, amended claim 10 is not anticipated by Wahlberg.

The aim of the object of the claimed invention is to provide a wiper device for wiper arms without an articulation with a flat design to inconsequentially restrict the visual field of a motor vehicle driver in a motor vehicle (see specification, page 4, second paragraph).

This aim is achieved with the features of amended claim 1, wherein the control unit (18a, 18b) features a different mechanical connecting part (22a, 22b) to a body of a motor vehicle than the wiper arm (12a, 12b) and wherein the wiper arm (12a, 12b) and the connecting part (22a, 22b) are arranged one on top of the other in a top view in at least one operating position and in at least one partial section of the wiper arm (12a, 12b). Hereby, a flat design can advantageously be achieved and a visual field of a motor vehicle driver in a motor vehicle can be inconsequentially restricted.

Wahlberg only discloses a wiper device, comprising a wiper arm (32) and a connecting part (38) which is different from the wiper arm (32). The wiper arm (32) and the connecting part (38) are located parallel to each other in a plane parallel to a windshield (12) of a motor vehicle. The connecting part (38) is identically embodied to the wiper arm (32). The wiper arm (32) and the connecting part (38) are pivot-mounted nearby the windshield (12) via a shaft (28). A control unit (38, 40) of the wiper device conveys a pivoting movement of the wiper arm (32) to the connecting part (38) via a coupler (40). The design of the wiper device of Wahlberg only allows at a maximum deflection of the wiper device that the wiper arm (32) and the connecting part (38) abut on each other. An arrangement of the wiper device of Wahlberg in which the wiper arm (32) and the connecting part (38) are arranged one on top of the other in a top view in at least one operating position and in at least one partial section of the wiper arm (32), is not possible through the design of the wiper device of Wahlberg.

A person skilled in the art would not have been able to find any suggestion in Wahlberg which would have led him to the invention of amended claim 1. Therefore, amended claim 1 and dependent claims 3, 4, 6-9 and 11-15 are allowable.

Furthermore, a person skilled in the art would not have been able to find any suggestion in Wahlberg which would have led him to a wiper arm that has a bistable partial area which comprises one leaf spring element for producing a contact force and an articulation, wherein the bistable partial area serves as a fold-out device. Therefore, amended claim 10 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the above amendment and allowance of claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-15 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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